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In the Abstract

Please replace the Abstract with the language provided on the separate page appended hereto in accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR §1.72.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims ~~2, 18, 40.~~

Please amend claims ~~1, 5-7, 11, 12, and 14-16~~ and add new claim 41-44 to read as follows:

1. (amended) A method for [selecting samples having] analyzing specified properties [from] of a [library] set of samples, the method comprising:

- a. providing a platen having two substantially parallel planar surfaces and [a] a two-dimensional array [plurality] of addressable through-holes having at least 30 holes in each of two directions, the through-holes being disposed substantially perpendicularly to the planar surfaces;
- b. loading a first sample [in liquid form] into at least one of the through-holes;
- c. retaining the sample in the at least one of the through-holes by surface tension;
- d. adding a second sample into the at least one of the through-holes for permitting a reaction between the first sample and the second sample; and
- e. characterizing the reaction in the through-hole in terms of the specified properties.

5. (amended) A method according to claim [1] 43, wherein the first sample in liquid form includes at least one of a target in solution and a target in suspension.

*SUB 1
SUB 2*

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6. (amended) A method according to claim [2] 43, wherein at least one of a target in solution and a target in suspension includes a biological material.

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7. (amended) A method according to claim [1] 43, wherein the step of loading a first sample includes drawing the sample from a planar surface by capillary action.

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11. (amended) A method according to claim [1] 43, further including maintaining a humid atmosphere for preventing evaporation of the first sample.

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12. (amended) A method according to claim [1] 43, further including coating the liquid sample with a monolayer for preventing evaporation of the first sample.

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14. (amended) A method for characterizing a plurality of [liquid] samples, the method comprising:

- a. providing a platen having a [set] two-dimensional array of through-holes having at least 30 holes in each of two directions;
- b. loading a specified [liquid] sample into each through-hole of a subset of the set of through-holes; and
- c. characterizing a property of the specified [liquid] sample.

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15. (amended) A method according to claim 14, the step of characterizing a property of the specified [liquid] sample comprising:

- a. illuminating at least one through-hole of the subset of the set of through-holes with optical radiation; and
- b. analyzing the optical radiation emanating from the at least one through-hole.

Claim 16
16. (amended) A method for analyzing a plurality of [liquid] samples, the system comprising:

- a. loading the [liquid] samples into a plurality of through-holes disposed in a platen;
- b. illuminating at least one through-hole with optical radiation; and

analyzing the optical radiation emanating from the at least one through-hole.

Claim 41
—41. (new) A method for characterizing a plurality of samples, the method comprising:

- d. providing a platen having a two-dimensional array of through-holes;
 - e. loading a specified sample into each through-hole of a subset of the set of through-holes with a density of at least one through-hole per square millimeter; and
- characterizing a property of the specified sample.

Claim 42
—42. (new) A method according claim 1, wherein at least one of the first sample and second sample is in liquid form.

Claim 43
—43. (new) A method according claim 1, wherein the first sample is in liquid form.

Claim 44
—44. (new) A method according claim 14, 16, or 41, wherein at least one of the samples is in liquid form.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-7, 11, 12, and 14-16 are amended and claims 41-44 are added herein to more clearly recite the invention.